

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 04749 110711Z

15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSO-00

AID-05 FDRE-00 SR-02 ORM-01 OPR-02 /065 W

----- 088973

R 110642Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5135

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMIPAC HONOLULU

COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4749

FOLLOWING MSG SENT ACTION SAIGON, INFO USDAO SAIGON 10 APRIL 75

BEING REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0192

E.O. 11652: GDU

TAGS: MILI PINT VS

SUBJECT: MR4 MORALE

1. LATEST SPOT SURVEY INDICATES MILITARY AND CIVILIAN MORALE IN MR4 HOLDING STEADY--I.E., NOT ESPECIALLY HIGH BUT SOMEWHAT BETTER THAN DURING WORST DAYS OF GVN COLLAPSE IN MR1 AND MR2. CONCERN AND FEAR REMAIN, BUT TENSION HAS SLACKENED AND SERIOUS PROBLEM OF RUMORS HAS ABATED. WORST MILITARY MORALE PROBLEM AT MOMENT APPEARS TO BE HIGH DESERTION RATE FROM RF BATTALIONS RECENTLY UPGRADED TO ARVN, WHICH COULD BE EXPECTED UNDER BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES. ARVN COMMANDERS HOPE TO REVERSE THIS TREND AND GET AT LEAST SOME OF THE DESERTERS TO REPORT BACK VOLUNTARILY.

2. MR4 POPULACE HAS CLOSELY FOLLOWED EVENTS SURROUNDING APRIL 8 BOMBING OF PRESIDENTIAL PALACE BUT REMAINED CALM THROUGHOUT. THERE HAVE BEEN VIRTUALLY NO EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN OR SYMPATHY FOR THE PRESIDENT, AND SOME VNAF PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN HEARD DIS-
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CUSSING HOW THE ATTACK SHOULD HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT. MR4

COMMANDER MG NGUYEN KHOA NAM MADE TELEVISION AND RADIO
APPEAL TO MILITARY AND CIVILIANS TO REMAIN CALM AND CARRY ON
WITH TASK OF DEFENDING AGAINST COMMUNISTS. MOST SENIOR
MILITARY OFFICERS APPEAR, AT LEAST PUBLICLY, TO BE FOLLOWING
SAME LINE.

3. THERE ARE CONTINUING SIGNS OF DISENCHANTMENT WITH AMERICAN
SUPPORT AND WITH GVN LEADERSHIP. MILITARY "REFUGEES" FROM
CENTRAL VIETNAM; IN PARTICULAR, HAVE BEEN OVERHEARD BLAMING
GVN COLLAPSE THERE ON LACK OF ADEQUATE US ASSISTANCE AND
EARLY DEPARTURE OF SENIOR RVNAF OFFICERS. AS YET, THERE HAS
BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN OVERT SIGNS OF ANTI-
AMERICANISM.

MCNAMARA

UNQUOTE

BMARTIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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